

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8579

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 5743

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: LOCKHEED: SPECIAL ENVOY

REF: TOKYO 5667

SUMMARY. AS A RESULT OF A SERIES OF MEETINGS DURING THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS, IT HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY LIKELY THAT PRIMIN MIKI WILL CONCEDE TO OPPOSITION DEMANDS FOR THE DISPATCH OF A SPECIAL ENVOY IN ORDER TO GET THE DIET BACK ON THE TRACKS. HE IS UNDER STRONG PRESSURES TO MAKE SOME CONCESSIONS AND HAS INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO "CONSIDER" SUCH A COURSE OF ACTION. MIKI IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH OPPOSITION PARTY CHAIRMEN APRIL 20 AT WHICH TIME A DECISION COULD BE ANNOUNCED. PRESS IS SPECULATING THAT FONMIN MIYAZAWA WOULD BE A LIKELY CHOICE. AS THIS MAY BE LAST CHANCE TO NORMALIZE DIET BEFORE END OF SESSION, EMBASSY BELIEVES WE PROBABLY WILL HAVE TO RECEIVE SUCH A SPECIAL ENVOY, SHOULD A DECISION BE MADE TO DISPATCH ONE.

END SUMMARY.

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1. AS A RESULT OF A SERIES OF NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE WEEKEND AND APRIL 19 MEETINGS BETWEEN PRIMIN MIKI AND OPPOSITION PARTY CHAIRMEN, IT HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY LIKELY THAT MIKI WILL CONCEDE TO OPPSOTIION DEMANDS FOR THE DISPATCH TO THE US OF A SPECIAL ENVOY AND/OR A SUPRAPARTISAN DIET INVESTIGATING TEAM IN ORDER TO GET THE DIET BACK ON THE TRACKS. ON APRIL 17, MIKI TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE WOULD "CONSIDER" SUCH A COURSE, AND UPPER AND LOWER HOUSE SPEAKERS ARE PUSHING HIM TO DO SO. HE IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH OPPOSITION PARTY CHAIRMEN APRIL 20 IN AN ATTEMPT TO REACH AGREEMENT ON DIET NORMALIZATION AT WHICH TIME A DECISION COULD BE ANNOUNCED.

2. APRIL 19 PRESS QUOTES GOVERNMENT SOURCES AS SAYING THAT FONMIN MIYAZAWA IS THE MOST LIKELY CANDIDATE FOR THE SPECIAL ENVOY JOB. THE PRESS POINTS OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THE SPECIAL ENVOY WOULD NOT UNDERTAKE TO RENEGOTIATE THE LOCKHEED AGREEMENT WITH THE US, BUT WOULD BE VAGUELY CHARGED WITH "INCREASING MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING" OF THE LOCKHEED AFFAIR AND HOLDING DISCUSSIONS WITH US OFFICIALS ON THE OUTLOOK FOR US LOCKHEED INVESTIGATIONS AND WAYS TO DEAL WITH THE EXCESSES OF MNC'S. PRESS SPECULATES THAT SPECIAL ENVOY WOULD PROBABLY MEET WITH THE SECRETARY.

3. ONE OTHER STUMBLING BLOCK TO DIET NORMALIZATION IS OPPOSITION INSISTENCE ON DISCLOSURE AT THE CONCLUSION OF JAPANESE INVESTIGATIONS OF NAMES OF HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IMPLICATED - BUT NOT INDICTED - IN LOCKHEED AFFAIR. THUS FAR, SPEAKERS HAVE AVOIDED QUESTION, BUT OPPOSITION PARTIES COULD WELL RAISE IT AT TOMORROW'S SUMMIT.

4. COMMENT. EMBASSY FULLY CONCURS IN DEPARTMENT'S DESIRE THAT LOCKHEED AFFAIR NOT BE REOPENED AS A BILATERAL POLITICAL ISSUE. AS INDICATED IN REFTTEL, GOJ IS ALSO AWARE OF DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT FONOFF, IN FACT, HAS WORKED ACTIVELY AGAINST SPECIAL ENVOY IDEA, BUT TO LITTLE AVAIL. WITH DIET IMPASSE ENTERING ITS SEVENTH WEEK AND ONLY FIVE WEEKS REMAINING IN CURRENT SESSION FOR DIET TO ACT ON REMAINDER OF MIKI'S LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM,
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INCLUDING BUDGET-RELATED MEASURES, NPT AND ROK TREATY, MIKI IS UNDER STRONG PRESSURE TO MAKE SOME COMPROMISES. IN VIEW OF FACT THAT OPPOSITION HAS DROPPED ITS DEMAND TO RENEGOTIATE LOCKHEED AGREEMENT, AGREEMENT TO DISPATCH A SPECIAL ENVOY MAY WELL BE THE ONLY FACE-SAVING CONCESSION MIKI CAN MAKE TO THE OPPOSITION WHICH WILL SERVE TO GET THE DIET UNDERWAY AGAIN.

5. IF THIS LAST-DITCH MANEUVER SHOULD FAIL, THERE IS A
STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT THE DIET MAY NOT RETURN TO NORMAL
FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE CURRENT SESSION, WHICH WOULD HAVE
SERIOUS ADVERSE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS FOR MIKI. EMBASSY,
THEREFORE, BELIEVES THAT WE WILL HAVE TO "GO THROUGH
MOTIONS" IN RECEIVING SPECIAL ENVOY, SHOULD A DECISION
BE MADE TO SEND ONE. WITH REDEFINITION OF HIS PURPOSE,
THE RESULT IS NOT LIKELY TO EXACERBATE LOCKHEED ISSUE
IN OUR RELATIONS.
HODGSON

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